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News Release

Paul J. McNulty, United States Attorney for the Eastern District of Virginia, Donald W. Thompson, Jr., Special Agent in Charge of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, Richmond Field Division, and Gerald Massengill, Superintendent of the Virginia State Police, announced that Edmund A. Matricardi, III, pleaded guilty today to one count of Interception of a Wire Communication before United States District Judge James R. Spencer. Matricardi faces a maximum penalty of 5 years imprisonment and a fine of up to \$250,000. Sentencing is scheduled for July 8, 2003.

According to a statement of facts filed with the plea agreement, Matricardi was the Executive Director of the Republican Party of Virginia (RPV). On March 20 and March 21, 2002, a Democratic official sent out an announcement by e-mail and fax to "Democratic General Assembly Members." It listed a dial-in telephone number and a participation code, which allowed access to a conference call involving members of the Joint Democratic Caucus.

On March 22, 2002, Jane Doe passed on the telephone number and participation code to Matricardi. That afternoon, Matricardi secretly listened to the Democratic conference call for approximately two and one-half hours, recorded it and later reported the contents of the call to others.

The case is being investigated by the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the Virginia State Police, and prosecuted by David T. Maguire, Assistant United States Attorney and Stephen W. Miller, Managing Assistant United States Attorney.